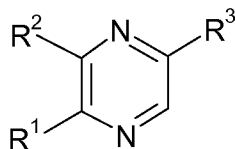


In the Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supersedes all previous lists of claims.

Please amend claims 1, 13-15, and 19-20, as follows.

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



I

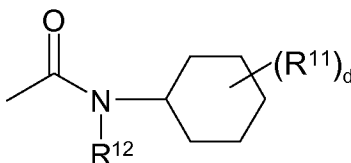
wherein R¹ and R² independently represent phenyl, thienyl or pyridyl, each of which is independently optionally substituted by one or more groups represented by Z; Z represents a C₁₋₈alkyl group, a C₁₋₆alkoxy group, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethylsulphonyl, nitro, mono or di C₁₋₃alkylamido, C₁₋₃alkylsulphonyl, C₁₋₃alkylsulphonyloxy, C₁₋₃alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano, carbamoyl, mono or di C₁₋₃alkyl carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, acetyl, an aromatic heterocyclic group, optionally substituted by halo, alkyl, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy, or Z represents a saturated or partially unsaturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur wherein the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more C₁₋₃alkyl, hydroxy, fluoro, benzyl or an amino group -NR^xR^y in which R^x and R^y independently represent H or C₁₋₄alkyl; and R³ represents a group of formula (CH₂)_nCOOR⁷ in which n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and R⁷ represents a C₄₋₁₂alkyl group, a C₃₋₁₂cycloalkyl group or a (C₃₋₁₂cycloalkyl)C₁₋₃alkyl-group each of which is optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C₁₋₆alkyl, fluoro, amino or hydroxy group, or R⁷ represents a group -(CH₂)_aphenyl in which a is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and the phenyl group is optionally substituted by one or more groups represented by Z which may be the same or different or R⁷ represents a saturated or partially unsaturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more of the following: oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen; wherein the heterocyclic group is optionally substituted by one or more C₁₋₃alkyl, C₁₋₃acyl, hydroxy, amino or benzyl groups; or

R^3 represents a group of formula $-(CH_2)_o-O-(CH_2)_p-R^8$ in which o represents an integer 1, 2, 3 or 4, and p represents an integer 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and R^8 represents a C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more of the following: a C_{1-6} alkyl, fluoro, hydroxy, or an amino group $-NR^xR^y$ in which R^x and R^y independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl; or R^8 represents phenyl optionally independently substituted by one or more Z groups or R^8 represents an aromatic heterocyclic group or a saturated or partially unsaturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more of the following: oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen wherein each of these rings is optionally substituted by one or more groups represented by Z which may be the same or different; or

R^3 represents a group of formula $-(CH_2)_qR^9$ in which q is 2, 3 or 4 and R^9 represents a C_{3-12} cycloalkyl group, phenyl, an aromatic heterocyclic group or a saturated or partially unsaturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more of the following: oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen wherein each of these rings is optionally substituted by one or more groups represented by Z which may be the same or different; or

R^3 represents a group of formula $-(CH_2)_m-O-(CO)-R^{10}$ in which m represents an integer 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, and in which R^{10} represents a C_{1-12} alkyl group optionally substituted by one or more fluoro, hydroxy, or amino groups or R^{10} represents a group of formula $-(CH_2)_qR^9$; or

R^3 has the following formula:



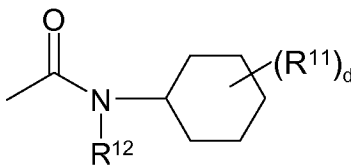
wherein R^{11} represents hydroxy, fluoro, carboxy, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group or an amino group $-NR^xR^y$ in which R^x and R^y independently represent H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

d is 1, 2 or 3; and

R^{12} represents H or a C_{1-3} alkyl group; ~~and~~ or

R^3 represents a group of formula $CONH-R^z$, in which R^z is a piperidiny ring substituted by a C_{1-6} alkanoyl group; or R^3 represents a group $-COG$ in which G is a dihydroindole or a dihydroisindole, linked through nitrogen to the carbonyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R³ has the following formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² each represent phenyl independently optionally substituted by one or more chloro.

4. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R³ represents C₄₋₁₂alkoxycarbonyl.

5. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R³ represents a benzyloxymethyl group optionally substituted by Z in the phenyl ring of the benzyloxymethyl group.

6. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R³ represents a group C(O)O-Het wherein Het is piperidino, morpholino or pyrrolidino.

7. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 3, wherein R¹ and R² each represent 4-chlorophenyl.

8. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 2, wherein d is 1 and R¹¹ is hydroxyl, amino or a C₁₋₆alkoxycarbonyl group.

9. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 2, wherein d is 2, ~~and~~ R¹¹ is F, and both occurrence of R¹¹ are attached to the same carbon.

10. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R¹² is H.
11. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group is furyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or 1,3,5-triazenyl.
12. (previously amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group is pyrrolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl or pyridyl.
13. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the saturated or partially unsaturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group is tetrahydrofuranyl, tetrahydropyranyl, pyrrolidinyl, morpholinyl, piperidinyl or piperazinyl,
14. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the saturated or partially unsaturated 5- to 8-membered heterocyclic group is tetrahydrofuran-3-yl, tetrahydropyran-4-yl, pyrrolidin-3-yl, morpholino, piperidino, piperidin-4-yl or piperazin-1-yl.
15. (currently amended) A compound selected from:
5,6-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-(cis-2-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)pyrazine-2-carboxamide[[,]];
5,6-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-(trans-2-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)pyrazine-2-carboxamide[[,]];
5,6-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)pyrazine-2-carboxamide[[,]];
5,6-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-*N*-(4,4-difluorocyclohexyl)pyrazine-2-carboxamide[[,]];
N-(1-acetylpiperidin-3-yl)-5,6-bis(4-chlorophenyl)pyrazine-2-carboxamide[[,]];
Tert-butyl 5,6-bis(4-chlorophenyl)pyrazine-2-carboxylate[[,]];
5,6-Bis (4-chlorophenyl)-pyrazine-2-yl)-(1,3-dihydro-isoindol-2-yl)-methanone[[,]];
~~2,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-([(4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]methyl)pyrazine, or~~
2,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-([(4-fluorobenzyl)oxy]methyl)pyrazine; and
2,3-bis(4-chlorophenyl)-5-[(piperidine-1-yloxy)carbonyl]pyrazine,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
16. (cancelled).

17. (previously amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

18. (cancelled).

19. (currently amended) A method of treating obesity, ~~psychiatric disorders, psychotic disorders, schizophrenia and bipolar disorders, anxiety, anxiety depressive disorders, depression, cognitive disorders, memory disorders, obsessive compulsive disorders, anorexia, bulimia, attention disorders, epilepsy, and related conditions, neurological disorders, neurological disorders, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Chorea and Alzheimer's Disease, immune, cardiovascular, reproductive and endocrine disorders, septic shock, diseases related to the respiratory and gastrointestinal system, and~~ extended abuse, or an addiction and/or relapse indications disorder, comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or ~~a formulation of claim 17~~ a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier to a patient in need thereof.

20. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of obesity comprising administering a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or ~~a formulation of claim 17~~ a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier to a patient in need thereof.